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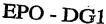
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PCT/EP 03/12412 DSM IP ASSETS B.V. et al. Our ref.: 20739 WO



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NEW SET OF CLAIMS

(filed 27 October 2004)

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- Process for the racemisation of an enantiomerically enriched α-amino nitrile characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched α-amino nitrile is contacted with a Lewis acid catalyst in an aprotic solvent.
- Process according to claim 1, wherein the Lewis acid catalyst comprises a metal chosen from main group elements IA-IVA of the Periodic Table (CAS version), the transition metals and the lanthanides.
- 3. Process according to claim 2 wherein the metal is chosen from the group consisting of Al, Ti, Zr, or lanthanides.
- 4. Process according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein a catalyst with the general structure $M_nX_pS_qL_r$ is used, wherein M represents the metal, X represents an anionic counterion or covalently bound anionic ligand for non zero valent metals, S represents a spectator ligand, L represents a neutral ligand, n represents an integer larger than or equal to 1 and p, q and r each independently represent an integer larger than or equal to 0, and in which n and p are chosen such that M_nX_p is neutral.
- 5. Process according to claim 4, wherein the catalyst is chosen from the group of aluminum alkoxides, aluminum alkyls, lanthanide alkoxydes and lanthanocenes.
- 6. Process according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with a resolution process.
- 7. Process according to claim 6, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with an enzymatic resolution process.
- 25 8. Process according to claim 6, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with a crystallization induced resolution.
 - 9. Process according to any one of claims 6-8, wherein the resolution process is combined with racemisation in situ.
 - 10. Process according to claim 9, wherein the racemisation is performed in situ in a crystallization induced asymmetric transformation process.

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